

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 USSS-00 /031 W

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Z O 131846Z NOV 73 ZFF-6

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 1055

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING FLASH

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4712

EXDIS

PEKING FOR SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR UN XF UR

SUBJ: SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN UNTSO

1. SOVIET PERMREP MALIK CALLED ON ME AT HIS REQUEST AT 10:45 AM NOV 13. HE OPENED CONVERSATION BY DECLARING THAT SYG WALDHEIM HAD INFORMED HIM THAT I HAD "INTERFERED" IN THE MATTER OF INTERPRETERS THAT WOULD ASSIST SOVIET OBSERVERS IN UNTSO. THIS WAS NONE OF OUR BUSINESS. IT UP TO EACH PARTICIPANT IN UNTSO TO DETERMINE ITS OWN NEEDS FOR INTERPRETERS, SECRETARIES AND SO FORTH. IN DOBRYNIN-KISSINGER UNDERSTANDING, THERE HAD BEEN NO EMTION OF INTERPRETERS. ON OCT 28 MALIK HAD RAISED MATTER WITH SYG. WALDHEIM HAD SHOWN UNDERSTANDING. ON NOV 10 HE HAD CHECKED WITH WALDHEIM AGAIN AND HAD BEEN TOLD THAT SOVIET UNION SHOULD PROVIDE ITS OWN INTERPRETERS, WHICH WOULD NOT HAVE OBSERVER STATUS. ON NOV 12 HE HAD CHECKED WITH WALDHEIM STILL AGAIN, ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT COMPLICATIONS HAD ARISEN BECAUSE OF "INTERFERENCE FROM AMERICAN SIDE."

2. IN COURSE OF HOUR-LONG CONVERSATION WHICH FOLLOWED, MALIK RESTATED ALL OF ARGUMENTS AND CHARGES WE HAD HEARD IN PREVIOUS WEEKS. MY RESPONSES INCLUDED FOLLOWING:

(A) OUR FIRM RECOLLECTION OF CONVERSATION WITH MALIK IN NEW
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YORK AND OUR INFORMATION ABOUT KISSNGER-DOBRYNIN DISCUSSIONS LEFT US NO ROOM TO DOUBT THAT TWO SIDES HAD AGREED ON 36 BODIES -- 36 POSITIONS-- AND NO MORE, WITH NO THOUGHT INTER-

PRETERS OR ANYONE ELSE WOULD BE ADDED.

(B) SOVIET SIDE WAS TRYING ONCE AGAIN TO REOPEN A CLEAR AGREEMENT, CAUSING ME TO WONDER ABOUT UTILITY OF ANY SUCH AGREEMENTS.

(C) US FIRMLY REJECTS IDEA THAT ANY PARTICIPANT IN UNTSO CAN PROVIDE SUPPORT PERSONNEL THAT ARE THEMSELVES OUTSIDE UNTSO. I UNDERSTOOD 20 OF SOVIET INTERPRETERS IN CAIRO ARE MILITARY OFFICERS ANYWAY. WHY SHOULD NOT THESE AND 16 OTHERS CONSTITUTE A SOVIET OBSERVER ELEMENT?

(D) IF THIS PROBLEM PROVED INSURMOUNTABLE FOR SOVIETS, PERHAPS WE SHOULD GO BACK TO THE NO-SOVIETS-NO-AMERICANS FORMULA-- ONE WHICH WOULD DOUBTLESS FIND CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT IN UN.

3. COMMENT: THIS WAS PARTICULARLY BALD CASE OF STANDARD SOVIET GAME OF REOPENING AGREEMENTS. MALIK KNOWS PERFECTLY WELL WHAT WAS SAID IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH ME. I THINK IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF WE TOLD SOVIETS AT OTHER LEVELS THAT THIS IS MERELY LATEST INSTANCE OF PRETENDED MISUNDERSTANDING, THAT SUCH TACTICS ARE NOT APPRECIATED, PARTICULARLY HIS TECHNIQUE OF QUOTING DOBRYNIN'S IMAGINARY SECRET UNDERSTANDINGS WITH SECRETARY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 12 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973USUNN04712
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 XGDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750023-0162
From: USUN NY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731168/abqcelhf.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Oct-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <05-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN UNTSO
TAGS: PFOR, XF, UR, UN, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (WALDHEIM), (MALIK), (DOBRYNIN)
To: STATE FLASH INFO MOSCOW
PEKING FLASH
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005